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PRESS RELEASE

If you plan to travel to the U.S. during Summer 2013 and have not yet applied for the necessary documentation, please start the process now. The U.S. Mission in Nigeria would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following procedures that U.S. citizens that need to renew their passports as well as prospective applicants for non-immigrant visas (NIVs) to the United States should take.

U.S. citizens are reminded that all non-emergency U.S. Citizen Services such as U.S. passport renewal are provided by appointment only. Appointments for U.S. passport renewal as well as for all other non-emergency citizen services can be made by visiting the link below:

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=LGS&appcode=1>

Complete information on U.S. passport renewal requirements, as well as downloadable forms, is available at www.travel.state.gov or by viewing this document:

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/nigeria/487468/pdfs/CRBA_checklist_and_procedure.pdf

U.S. citizens that plan to travel are encouraged to always plan as far ahead as possible; U.S. passports are printed in the United States and take 2 to 3 weeks to prepare.

All prospective NIV applicants **MUST** possess a valid passport. Immigration regulations of the United States as well as those of many other countries require that passports be valid for **AT LEAST** six months beyond the dates of travel. If your passport is due to expire within six months of your planned dates of travel, please renew your passport **BEFORE** you make an appointment.

The NIV appointment system for the U.S. Mission in Nigeria is managed by a third-party provider through the US Travel Docs website. All NIV appointments must be made through the US Travel Docs website directly. **Visit <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/ng/> for detailed instructions on how to book a visa appointment in Lagos or Abuja and for detailed information on the required costs and documentation.** Detailed instructions on the NIV appointment process are also available at <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> under the “Visas” tab. The U.S. Mission in Nigeria strongly encourages prospective applicants to book appointments themselves and does not endorse the use of third-party services, including “touts” or “fixers,” to book or broker NIV

appointments. The current wait time for an NIV appointment is approximately two weeks in both Lagos and Abuja.

To reschedule, expedite or cancel an appointment, please visit www.ustraveldocs.com/ng/ and log in to the account you created when you made your original appointment **BEFORE** the original appointment date. Follow the instructions provided on that page. You may also contact the country-wide NIV appointment call center by phone at (+234) 9460-1748.

Prospective applicants should note that the printing of NIVs takes **three business days** from the time of the interview. Due to volume and logistical necessities, we are unable to expedite NIV printing. **As a result, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria strongly advises prospective applicants against making irrevocable travel plans until they have their passport and NIV in hand.**

For prospective applicants that have individual questions regarding the NIV application process, please email them to LagosNIV@state.gov or to ConsularAbuja@state.gov.

Finally, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria wishes everyone in Nigeria an enjoyable summer and safe travels!

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